

Dear Ing: -----

AS SENATE BILL 1221, known as the "new civil rights" bill, has now been signed by Gov. Samuelson I want to take this opportunity to publicly express my personal appreciation, and that of my committee, for the invaluable help given on this legislation by your Rep, Pat McDermott.

Following the civil rights program on the state Capitol steps last spring as a local observance of Martin Luther King's funeral, numerous suggestions were made by local minority persons as to what could and should be done to alleviate increasing civil rights problems in Idaho. One of these was that, since the present civil rights law in Idaho was non-inclusive and virtually unenforceable, a new civil rights law was necessary, which would also provide for a Human Rights Commission.

AS A RESULT, I formed a non-partisan committee to draft such a bill and asked Sen. Phil Batt (R-Canyon County) to sponsor it in the Senate and Rep. Ferd Koch (R-Ada) in the House. We were forced to make numerous compromises on the proposed legislation before it passed the Senate. However, as it now stands, I still believe it provides effective machinery for great improvement in the area of civil rights for Idaho. The bill faced strong opposition from certain quarters in the House and it was, for all intents and purposes, thought to be "dead" on at least three different occasions in the last two weeks of the legislature. It was at this point that Rep. McDermott's assistance was of particular significance.

She then carried the bill on the floor of the House to a successful passage. Many groups and individuals throughout the state, particularly members of League of Women Voters and various church organizations, gave major impetus to passage of the bill through letters, phone calls and telegrams. But the crucial work was done by a small cluster of concerned individuals and Miss McDermott was one of these. Our thanks to her and to the voters of Pocatello who sent us such a responsible intelligent legislator.

Mrs. Pauli Crooke,
Caldwell I, Chairman
Committee for New Civil
Rights Legislation

DEAR ING: -----

Phil Batt signing Human Rights into law in Idaho April 11 1966



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Mon, Sep 5, 20